

G-1 Retirement Services Office
Chief of Staff, Army Retiree Council

Historical Background

1. On 11 February 1971, GEN Bruce C. Clarke, USA Retired, and BG Hallett D. Edson, USA Retired met with LTG Walter T. Kerwin, Jr., Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel (DCSPER), to express a desire that the Army take more interest in the affairs of its retired personnel and suggested that Army Retiree Councils be established.
2. On 29 September 1971, LTG Kerwin proposed that Retiree Councils be added to the Retirement Services Program. On 10 November 1971, VCSA LTG Bruce Palmer, Jr., acting for CSA GEN William W. Westmoreland, approved the establishment of retiree councils. The first CSA Officer and Enlisted Councils were chaired by LTG Harry H. Critz, USA Retired, and SGM Joe Bussey, USA Retired, met on 5-9 June 1972 at Fort McNair. Each Council consisted of eight regular members and two alternates.
3. In 1977, CSA GEN Bernard W. Rogers approved increasing each Council to 11 members with the addition of a reserve retiree.
4. From 1972 until 1985, the CSA Councils met twice a year. In 1985, CSA GEN John A. Wickham, approved one meeting per year with a mid-year meeting with the Council Chairmen to review retiree issues.
5. In 1985, the Council membership was increased to 24 with the addition of two USAREUR representatives. In 1987, USARPAC was authorized two representatives, but without an increase in the total number of members.
6. In 1989, the Councils met for the first time in the Pentagon. This move was to eliminate the expense of renting outside conference rooms and to facilitate the access by Army Staff speakers.
7. In 1990, CSA GEN Carl E. Vuono, approved combining the Officer and Enlisted Councils into one Council with Co-chairmen and reduced the membership to 18. USAREUR and USARPAC were authorized one representative each.
8. In 1997, the membership on the council was reduced to 14.
9. The CSA Council normally meets in March or April with the mid-year meeting between the Co-chairmen and the CSA in October.
10. The Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel (DCSPER) requests Installation Retiree Councils nominate retired members of their council to serve as members of the CSA Retiree Council. Nominations are forwarded through Installation and MACOM Commanders to DCSPER. After screening nominees, in coordination with the Council Co-chairmen, DCSPER forwards nominees to the CSA for selection and approval.
11. Prior to the annual meeting, Installation Retiree Councils submit issues and concerns for the CSA Council to review and discuss. At the close of each meeting, the Council renders two reports, one to the CSA that highlights major issues of concern and the other addressing additional issues discussed, but not brought to the direct attention of the CSA. The Council chairmen meet with the CSA, discuss the reports and provide him written copies. The action issues in each report are tasked to the appropriate Army staff agency

for resolution. A status of Council actions is furnished to Installation Retiree Councils and highlighted to the retired community through ARMY ECHOES.